

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 20892 211613Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/059 W

-----116605 212215Z /63

R 211515Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9404
INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USNMR SHAPE BE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20892

NAPLES FOR INTAF, SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL CRITERIA PROPOSED FOR SELECTING TOP ITALIAN
MILITARY

1. SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN, ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' DEFENSE COMMITTEE, HAS PROPOSED BILL SETTING ADDITIONAL AND POLITICAL CRITERIA FOR FILLING ITALY'S TOP MILITARY POSTS. AMONG CRITERIA IS "ABSOLUTE QUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC SENTIMENTS AND BEHAVIOR". PROPOSED CRITERIA ARE OFFERED IN WAKE OF SEVERAL SCANDALS INVOLVING SENIOR ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICERS OVERTHE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. IF THIS, OR A BILL LIKE IT WERE MADE LAW, DEFINING "DEMOCRATIC" WOULD OPEN DOOR TO AVOR BOARD VETTING OF HIGH MILITARY OFFICERS' POLITICAL RECORDS BY POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PCI. END SUMMARY.

2. FALCO ACCAME, SOCIALIST DEPUTY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' DEFENSE COMMITTEE IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 20892 211613Z

PROPOSING FOUR NEW CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF MILITARY OFFICERS TO FILL TOP DEFENSE POSTS. ACCAME DISCUSSED THESE CRITERIA IN A DEC. 10 FRONT-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL NEWSPAPER LA STAMPA. HIS CRITERIA WOULD BE ADDED TO THOSE ALREADY LAID DOWN BY A 1955 ALW ON MILITARY PROMOTION.

3. CRITERIA. ACCAME'S BILL PROPOSES FOUR REQUISITES FOR THE PROMOTION OF GENERALS AND ADMIRALS TO TOP NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL (READ NATO) COMMANDS:

A. "ABSOLUTE GUARANTEE" THAT DEMOCRATIC SENTIMENTS AND BEHAVIOR BE PRE-EMINENT AND BEYOND A DOUBT.

B. EFFECTIVE EXPERIENCE WITH INTER-SERVICE PROBLEMS SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME NARROW SINGLE-SERVICE VIEWPOINTS.

C. ELEVATED CULTURAL LEVEL.

D. CHARACTERISTICS CAPABLE OF DETERMINING PRESTIGE AND CREDIBILITY BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE MILITARY.

4. BY "ELEVATED CULTURAL LEVEL" ACCAME MEANS AS HE POINTS OUT IN THE INTERVIEW, THAT HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS SHOULD HAVE A GRADUATE EDUCATION. CRITERION (B) ONLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT INTER-SERVICE RIVALRY IS A PROBLEM IN ITALY, AND EQUALLY, THAT IT HAS NO PLACE IN THE UPPER RANKS OF THE MILITARY. REQUIREMENT (D) IS MORE DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET. ACCAME SEEMS TO MEAN THAT A CANDIDATE FOR TOP POSITION MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED FIT BY HIS PEERS, BY THE PUBLIC, AT LEAST BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 20892 211613Z

PARLIAMENT. HE REMARKED THAT PARTISAN OFFICERS IN WORLD WAR II WERE ELECTED BY THEIR MEN, BUT DENIED THAT WAS WHAT HE HAD IN MIND IN HIS BILL. IN TODAY'S REALITY, HE SUGGESTED, THE AUTHORITY SYMBOLIZED BY RANK MUST BE EARNED, NOT JUST CONFERRED.

5. ACCAME'S PROPOSALS ARE A REACTION TO THE MANY AND VARIED SCANDALS -- THE MOST NOTORIOUS OF WHICH HAVE STRONG POLITICAL OVERTONES -- INVOLVING SENIOR OFFICERS IN RECENT YEARS. ALTHOUGH THE SCANDAL-MONGERING PRESS HAS PROBABLY OFTEN OVERSTATED MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS AFFAIRS, IT IS TRUE THAT SOME HIGH-LEVEL OFFICERS HAVE BESMIRCHED THE MILITARY'S HONOR. SUCH BEHAVIOR HAS INVITED PARLIAMENTARY INTERVENTION. IN ACCAME'S OWN WORDS: "AFTER WHAT HAS HAPPENED. PARLIAMENT HAS GOT TO SET NEW CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING THE TOP MILITARY COMMANDS. ONE CAN'T CONTINUE LOOKING ON (FROM THE SIDELINES)".

6. COMMENT: THESE CRITERIA ARE NOW ONLY CLAUSES IN A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL, AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE BILL'S CHANCES OF ENACTMENT. MOREOVER, THESE WOULD

NOT BE THE ONLY REQUISITES A CANDIDATE MUST FULFILL.
THERE REMAIN OTHER MORE TRADITIONAL REQUIREMENTS,
DEALING WITH LENGTH OF SERVICE, QUALITY AND VARIETY
OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, ETC. WHAT IS
PROBABLY THE MOST TROUBLING CRITERION IN THE ACCAME
PROPOSAL IS THE ONE BASED UPON A GUARANTEE OF "DEMO-
CRATIC SENTIMENTS AND BEHAVIOR". APRAT FROM THE
FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF DEFINITION -- IN AN ITALIAN
ECUMENICAL POLITICAL LEXICON WHERE WORDS LIKE
"DEMOCRATIC" CAN HAVE SPECIAL AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY
CONNOTATIONS -- IT SUGGESTS THE INTRODUCTION OF AN
EXPLICIT POLITICAL TEST FOR PREFERMENT IN THE
ITALIAN MILITARY. THERE HAS OBVIOUSLY LONG EXISTED
A SET OF IMPLICIT POLITICAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 20892 211613Z

TO SENIOR MILITARY POSTS IN ITALY -- BASED PRIMARILY
ON ACCEPTABILITY TO THE RULING DC, AND TO SOME EXTENT
ON ACCEPTABILITY TO THE US AND NATO. IN PRESENT CIRCUM-
STANCES, ESTABLISHING A FORMAL MEASURE OF POLITICAL
ACCEPTABILITY WOULD OPEN THE PROCESS TO A DIRECT PCI
ROLE AND FURTHER CONDITION THE ATTITUDES OF THE
MILITARY OFFICER CORPS TO THE PCI VISION OF ITALY AND
ITS PLACE IN THE WORLD. GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, CONSCRIPTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME20892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770476-0651
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771231/aaaaazxu.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b2516ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 158418
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL CRITERIA PROPOSED FOR SELECTING TOP ITALIAN MILITARY
TAGS: PINT, IT
To: STATE INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b2516ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009